(c) whether Government have accepted those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the orders of the Supreme Court in IA 38 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1338434 dated March 17, 1997, a committee was appointed by the Government on March 18, 1997 to monitor the environmental impact of Yanni's concert on the Taj Mahal. The significant observations of the Committee were.

(i) There was no damage to the green belt plantation by the visitors. The visitors were generally kept away from the green belt plantations.

(ii) Setting up of emission sources (particularly power generator) has been prohibited in the Taj Trapezium Area. However, in the present case, diesel powered generators have been used at the concert site.

(iii) The results of noise level monitoring shows that none of the areas monitored, was showing the noise level within the range of 40 decibels specified by the Supreme Court.

(iv) The ambient air quality monitoring indicated that there was no significant change in ambient air quality due to Yanni's concert. Sulphur di-oxide and oxides of nitrogen levels were always within the prescribed standards and suspended particulate matter was higher than the prescribed limit.

(c) The report of the Committee has been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Poaching Activities Along Dclhi-Ghaziabad Border

3686. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 29th March, 1997 regarding poaching activities along Delhi-Ghaziabad border virtually making it a hunting ground for killing of neelgai, deer and peacocks; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Govern ment to check it?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes Sir, the report has come to our notice.

(b) As per report received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh, no incident of poaching has come to their notice. However, it is a fact that the District Magistriate of Ghaziabad had issued some permits for killing blue bulls under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which have been damaging standing crops. Patrolling on the border has been intensified to prevent poaching of wild animals and the Police Administration is also making effective patrolling to prevent poaching.

Public Hearing on Clearance of Developmental Projects

3687. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the detailed modalities have since been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when will they be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Public hearing has been made mandatory for 29 categories of developmental projects under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 1994 through a Gazette Notification dated the 10th April, 1997. The Notification, in-tcralia, outlines procedure for public hearing, submission of documents and composition of public hearing panel etc.

(c) Docs not arise.

Difference in Air Pollution Level in Delhi

3688. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any marked difference in the level of pollutants and in the suspended particulate matter in the air of Delhi has been noticed after March 15, 1997 the date when pollution norms were enforced rigorously;

(b) if so, the extent of relief in pollution of air since experienced in Delhi; and

(c) the further steps being taken to bring air pollution within the prescribed norms?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring air quality at 7 locations in Delhi. The average data of air quality monitoring for March, 1997, show that concentration of particulate matter and carbon monoxide has been decreased after March 15, 1997. (carbon monoxide in monitored at location only) However, no significant reduction has been recorded in concentration of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen.

(c) The measures taken to check air pollution in Delhi include the following:—

(i) Ambient air quality standards have been prescribed for major pollutants for different areas.

(ii) Emission standards have been notified for the major categories of polluting industries.

(iii) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment within a stipulated time frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iv) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(v) Environmental clearance based on impact assessment and associated studies has been made compulsory for major specific projects.

(vi) Vehicular emission standards have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(vii) Unleaded petrol with catalytic converter fitted vehicles has been introduced in four metropolitan cities.

(viii) Enforcement measures against polluting vehicles were continued by the Transport Department of the Government of NCT Delhi. The number of petrol stations equipped with pollution check facilities for petrol vehicles has been increased to augment the facilities of the Transport Department.

(ix) The Government has approved the first phase of the project for the Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Delhi.

(x) To encourage the conversion of in-use vehicles to use cleaner fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNS), the Government has converted a large number of its vehicles to CNS. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Plans to